

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE



Changing Lives

IN EDMONSON COUNTY

Extension provides practical education you can trust by helping individuals, families, businesses, and communities solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future.

4-H Camp 2022



4-H Camp gives youth the opportunity to spend time meeting new people and learning life skills by participating in activities that focus on physical activity, teamwork, and personal development.

Edmonson County youth and volunteers were excited about 4-H Camp being back to full capacity after being limited last year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Despite these restrictions 34 youth, 2 teen leaders, 4 adults, and both agents from Edmonson County attended 4-H camp last year.

With camp costing \$260 per camper, a combination of community donations, Ag. Tag Funds, and the county District Board agreeing to help cover part of the programming cost for campers, meant we were able to offer a reduced cost, only \$100, per camper. This benefited many families who are still struggling financially because of COVID and a high percentage of the county population living below the poverty level.

This year, Edmonson County set a record for the number of campers and total individuals taken to camp. 56 campers, five 15-17 year old's, four adult volunteers, and one Agent attended, for a total number of 66 participants. 18 campers were first timers and three adult volunteers were new to 4-H Camp. For many, this was their first time spending at least one night away from home and everyone stayed the whole week.

When asked, 95% of the campers said they planned to return next year. Two teen males stated that they plan to come back as teen leaders next year. Everyone involved were thrilled with the overwhelming success of 4-H Camp for 2022.

Priority Program Efforts

- A total of 90 people are now involved in addressing significant community issues
- 7 youth made an impact in their community through community leadership roles
- 30 local residents implemented practices that promote sustainable agriculture
- 16 Producers reported an economic impact (i.e., increase in agricultural productivity, increase in higher returns, decrease in expenses) in their agricultural operations
- 20 youth indicated an increase in leadership skills, knowledge or confidence through participation in Extension-related leadership programs

- 750 citizens (youth & adults) acknowledged utilizing the skills learned through Extension programming
- A total of 165 individuals reported making lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, managing stressors, healthy home practices, etc.) for the purpose of improving their health
- A total of 630 youth and adults demonstrated informed and effective decision-making skills
- 22 individuals incorporated new or additional conservation practices.

Reviving Homemakers



Picture Above is of the Modern Homesteading Homemakers Club

According to its website, the Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association (KEHA) is a volunteer organization that works to improve the quality of life for families and communities through leadership development, volunteer service, and education. County homemaker organizations provide leadership opportunities to its members through filling an office, teaching a lesson, chairing an activity, and being a part of many local associations. Most importantly, it provides companionship and lifelong friendships for most of its members.

In 2017, KEHA membership was 14,462 and in 2022, membership had dropped to 10,879. Many counties struggle to recruit new members and to recruit members in a younger demographic to replace dwindling membership numbers. In Edmonson County 40 of the 43 members were over the age of 50 with the average age of membership being 65.

In late 2021, the FCS Agent offered a series of classes called Modern Homesteading. The FCS Agent had observed that during 2020 and 2021 there had been a renewed interest in learning how to be self-sufficient. While offering these classes she noticed many of the class participants came to all of the classes. She approached the group and asked if they would be interested in starting a special interest homemakers club. Several were hesitant at first believing Extension Homemakers was only for "old retired ladies."

In January 2021, the Modern Homesteading Homemakers held their first club meeting. The FCS Agent worked closely with the group to determine research based monthly lessons and arrange for guest speakers as needed. As of April 2022, there are 53 members in the new special interest club. Out of the 53 members, 41 are in their 20's-30 with the average age of membership being 35. Overall Edmonson County Homemaker membership has grown from 43 members to 96 members.



Other community educational programs that involve the Extension Service include but are not limited to: **Reality Store, LEAP, Food Preserving Classes, Private Pesticide Applicator Training, Beef Quality and Care Assurance (BQCA) training, Dealing with Fescue Toxicosis, Hay & Pasture Renovation & Maintenance, 4-H Teen Club, 4-H Horse Club, Health Rocks!, etc.**

Agriculture and Natural Resources

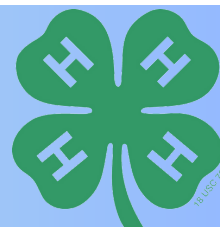


Legumes in Forage Stands can help Reduce Fertilizer Costs

The main staple of a ruminant animal's diet is forages. In Edmonson County, the approximately 18,000 domestic ruminant animals owned by individuals get their forages from roughly 55,000 acres that are also grazed by wild ruminant animals. Ruminant animal owners must use some land for grazing and some for making hay for the winter months. Close, continuous grazing depletes stand, as does cutting too low in hayfields, leading to the need for completely re-seeding or renovating forage stands. With the exponential rise in the cost of fertilizer and continual rise of other input costs, many producers have been concerned with maintaining their forage stand to supply their animal's needs. The Edmonson County Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent has several programs geared toward helping producers understand how to renovate, re-seed, properly fertilize, and maintain forage stands. The program titled "Pasture & Hayfield Renovation and Maintenance" has been of particular benefit to producers the past year. Many producers utilize grass only hay and pasture fields, which requires a Nitrogen (N) source. The cost of N fertilizer has soared to historic highs driving many to cut back on its use on forage crops. When presented with the fact that adding a legume, which is able to fix N from the atmosphere, to a forage stand can save producers as much as \$180 per acre in fertilizer costs, 100% of attendees of the program indicated that they would seriously consider adding a legume to their forage stands and over 50% of them indicated that they definitely planned to add a legume.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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